

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, ATHERTON.

Public Health Department.

ATHERTON, FEBRUARY 11th, 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary condition of the town during the year 1914.

The area of the District is 2265 acres.

The District is divided into North, South, East, West and Central Wards, but, for Sanitary purposes, it is practically one area.

The town lies on a slope which faces South, and varies from a height of 251 feet in the north, to 102 feet above sea level on the south, side.

The district lies upon the coal measures, with, generally, a surface of clay.

The principal industries are coal mining and cotton spinning, iron foundries and nut and bolt manufactories, whilst a large number of men are employed by the South Lancashire Tramway Company.

The population, as estimated at the middle of the year, was 20,500 as compared to 20,000 last year, 19,600 in 1912, 18,982 at the census in 1911, and 16,211 in 1901 showing the rapid and steady rate of growth of the population.

The **Deaths** at all ages registered in the district during the year, numbered 340, giving a rate of 16·5 per 1000 of the population, but of these 92 were non-residents registered from the Workhouse, which leaves a total of 248. To this total has to be added 13 deaths of residents registered outside the district, making the total number of deaths actually belonging to the district 261. This gives a death rate of 12·73 per 1000 inhabitants as compared with 15·4 last year; 11·42 in 1912; 16·38 in 1911 and 14·67 in 1910.

The **Births** numbered 566, of whom 281 were males and 285 females. This gives a birth rate of 27·6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 27·1 last year; 25·8 in 1912; 27·97 in 1911 and 26·47 in 1910.

The **Infantile Mortality**. During the year 61 deaths of infants under one year of age have been registered, giving a death rate of 107·77 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 166·6 last year; 100·56 in 1912; 176·69 in 1911; and 154·1 in 1910.

All things considered, this rate cannot be looked upon as otherwise than satisfactory. The principal causes of death will be found on Table IV. where it will be seen that Whooping Cough caused 8 deaths. Diarrhœa and Enteritis 10. Congenital Malformation, Premature Births, &c., 18 (of these 10 died before arriving at the age of one week).

The **Babies' Welcome** is progressing satisfactorily, and is undoubtedly doing good work. The Secretary's report shows that 237 babies attended the meetings, 49 meetings were held, and 2175 attendances were registered, giving an average attendance of 44·3 per meeting, compared to last year's figures: 172 babies, and an average attendance of 31·68 per meeting.

During the year 1914 the deaths of babies attending the "Welcome" numbered 7, giving a death rate of 29·5 per 1000 babies attending.

These figures speak eloquently of the success of the "Welcome" and there is undoubtedly a marked improvement in the condition of the Babies.

As you know, gentlemen, a Dried Milk Dépôt in connection with the "Welcome," was opened last year. During the year 906 1lb. tins were disposed of. It is the practice of the "Welcome" to give or sell at a loss to mothers who are in temporary difficulties, and in many instances this must have meant the difference between a baby being properly fed, and not having enough food.

It is proposed to extend the work of the "Welcome" this year to children over twelve months of age, in order to watch them over the second stage of their career, and see if the lessons learnt at the "Welcome" are carried on into the second year.

It is also proposed, if possible, to assist "expectant" mothers, and that this is extremely necessary is shown by the number of deaths due to Premature Births, Congenital Malformation, &c. If any expectant mother who needs assistance, or desires advice, will call in Mrs. Holmes, (the Health Visitor), steps will be taken to render any assistance that is in our power to give.

I should like to take this opportunity to say that Mrs. Holmes has done very good work during the year. She is keen and zealous, is received, (almost without exception) cordially, and to a large extent the good results of the year are due to her work.

The **deaths from the Seven Principle Zymotic diseases** numbered 39, the causes being :—

Small Pox (0), Measles (9), Scarlet Fever (0), Whooping Cough (14), Diphtheria and Membranous Croup (2), Typhoid Fever (0), and Diarrhœa (14).

This gives a rate of 1·9, compared to 2·95 last year, 0·19 in 1912; 2·5 in 1911; 1·98 in 1910, and 1 in 1909.

The **notifications of Infectious Diseases** numbered 222, details of which will be found in Table II.

Scarlet Fever numbers 61, of which 34 were removed to Hospital. There was no epidemic, all the cases one heard of were mild, and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup. Notifications numbered 61 and there were 2 deaths. The small percentage of deaths to cases notified is somewhat remarkable. The County rate during the last few years shewing a death rate of about 1 in 7 cases notified.

In December this disease occurred in epidemic form amongst the children attending the St. Richard's R.C. School. The source of the epidemic was early recognized, and the epidemic always seemed well in hand, but on account of an urgent appeal from the school managers, school closure was adopted to allay a "panic" which was said to have arisen amongst the teachers, and parents of children attending the school.

With regard to other cases, no common cause could be assigned. Different parts of the District were affected. There was no common milk supply, nor did schools seem to be the cause.

Typhoid Fever. Notifications numbered 9, of which 6 were removed to Hospital, there were no deaths. Three of the cases occurred in one house, two of these being (probably) cases of secondary infection contracted before the first case was recognized.

In all the primary cases, there was a history of the patient having eaten raw mussels, within the limits of the period of incubation of the disease.

Whooping Cough,—14 deaths,—again is one of our most fatal diseases. Year after year I suggest notification of this disease. If notification did nothing else, it would bring home to parents and guardians of children the fact that it is a dangerous, as well as an infectious disease.

Measles,—9 deaths,—occurs in epidemic form quite regularly, every spring and autumn. Mothers are at last beginning to realize the dangerous nature of this disease, and this is a very hopeful sign.

The deaths from **Bronchitis, Pneumonia** (all forms) and **other diseases of Respiratory Tract** numbered 58, more than one-fifth of the total number. As will be seen from Table III. most of these deaths occurred at the extremes of life.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Number of notifications 42. Deaths 27. This gives a death rate of 1·31 per 1000 inhabitants, as will be seen from Table III. most of the deaths occurred between the ages of 15 and 45.

Taking the rates as stated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health for past years, this is a high death rate. In 1913 our death rate was 1·00 per 1000. in 1912 it was 0·81 and the means of 10 years 1903—1912 was 0·91. The County Rate for Urban Districts in 1913 was 0·84. In my last report I expressed the opinion that there was nothing in the Regulations, and nothing in the methods that are being adopted to lead one to expect a diminution of this disease—rather the reverse. Money is being lavished on inspections, and the collection of statistics, but little progress is being made towards the eradication of the disease. The beginning of this eradication lies in the provision of **sufficient** and **suitable** (one is no good without the other) **houses**, and unless and until, this question is tackled in a thorough manner, all other measures must fail. It is **within walls** that Tuberculosis of the lungs is spread in the vast majority of cases, and this applies both to man and beast.

The next important step (or perhaps the first), should be the compulsory isolation of the dangerously infective patient. It seems futile to take one away in the early stages to be “cured”—whilst leaving another, in the later stages, at home to infect many others.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis caused 14 deaths, 10 of these being infants under 1 year of age.

This is a small toll for this disease to take. The causes of diarrhoea and enteritis are still plain to see:—the careless and irregular feeding, the unclean milk supply (not always unclean when it leaves the farm) and the filthy “dummy” are only too evident.

The **Milk Supply.** There is little to report from last year.

Schools are visited periodically, and the sanitary condition is, on the whole, satisfactory. In connection with the Diphtheria Epidemic, a report was made by the Sanitary Inspector, on the sanitary conditions appertaining to the St. Richard's R.C. School, and certain recommendations were made.

Bakehouses are kept clean and in good condition. There are no underground bakehouses.

Smoke abatement. The time limit is 5 minutes in any hour. The number of observations have been 14. No legal proceedings taken. There is a marked improvement in respect of the emission of black smoke.

The **Water Supply,** derived from Bolton and Manchester, is abundant and of good quality.

Slaughter houses are kept clean, and whitewashed twice yearly. About 1391 lbs. of meat were condemned and destroyed.

Housing and Town Planning. During the year your Inspector has examined 294 houses.

Seven dwelling houses were condemned as unfit for human habitation and were accordingly closed.

In 256 dwelling houses defects were remedied without closing orders.

The general character of the defects were: defective roofs, spoutings, windows and sash cords, waste water pipes, floors, &c.

Your Inspector reports that during the year 82 privy-middens have been converted into W.C.'s. There are still 75 privy-middens to be converted, "but of these 27 are on the outskirts, and beyond the reach of existing drainage system." In a former report I suggested the advisability of applying the Septic Tank System to as many of these outsiders as possible, and beg to make the suggestion again.

During the year 42 new houses have been erected, the total number of houses now being 4133. The demand, however, still grows, and there is probably a requirement of, at least, 300 more houses.

In a previous report I have suggested that houses of differing type should be built. At present, we build the same type of cottage, containing a kitchen, and back kitchen and two bedrooms, with monotonous persistency. This class of cottage is practically the only one that is available for a working man's family, whether that family consists of two or fourteen, or more.

Is there no form of structure whereby a family, by paying a reasonable rent, can obtain sufficient air space to run a decent chance of escape from disease?

Consumption is due in most cases, to overcrowding—we spend millions of pounds on the prevention and treatment of consumption—yet persist in building such houses only that overcrowding and its consequences are bound to exist.

Large families require room—room to move—room to breathe—or else disease supervenes.

The pressing need in this Town, is, in my opinion, cheap houses with plenty of room. It would be an economy in the health of the district to build some of this type, and even sustain a loss in the rents.

The **Factories and Workshops** have been visited frequently, and many sanitary improvements are being made.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES MARSH.

TABLE C.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1914.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ATHERTON.

Medical Officer of Health—JAMES MARSH.

Salary—£100.

Inspector of Nuisances—KAY JEPSON

Salary—£140.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation? For Small-pox—Astley Isolation Hospital. For other Infectious Diseases—Astley Isolation Hospital. Is it Joint or otherwise? Joint with Leigh, Tyldesley, Golborne. Proportionate payments for maintenance—then in ratio of number of patients. Number of Beds available for your District? For Small-pox—Varies. For other Infectious Diseases—Varies. Deaths in Hospital of patients removed from your District? (From what causes)? 1 Diphtheria.

How is Disinfection carried out? Houses—Fumigation, and Sulphur and Formalin. Number of Houses disinfected?—151. Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (Steam or otherwise?—Mason's Steam. Where is apparatus situated?—At the Gasworks.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, Chicken Pox, &c.)? If so, what are they?—No.

Diseases specially prevalent?—Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles, &c. Period? Throughout the year.

No. of times School Closure adopted?—One. For what disease?—Diphtheria.

No. of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 & 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910?—None.

Bacteriological Examinations. Specimens examined: Blood—nil, Swabs—nil, Sputum—nil, Milk—nil. Others—One Water.

Arrangement (if any) made under the Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910?—Serium supplied free to Doctors.

“The Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909.”—

Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article 1 of the Regulations?—Yes.

Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article 1 (3), a list of dwelling-houses, the early inspection of which is desirable?—Yes.

Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and and to keep the records stipulated by Article 2. If so, what officer?—Sanitary Inspector.

Have the necessary books, forms, etc., for keeping the required records been obtained?—Yes.

Action taken in 1914:—

No. of Dwelling-houses inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909?—294.

„ Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation?—7.

„ Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders—7.

„ Closing Orders made?—7.

„ Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders?—256.

„ Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of Habitation after making Closing Orders—Nil.

„ Dwelling-houses demolished?—Nil.

General character of defects found to exist?—Deficient Ventilation, Roofs, Floors, Sponts.

Is there a deficiency of housing accommodation? If so, where, and to what extent?—Yes, throughout the district. About two to three hundred houses are required.

What steps are being taken to meet the deficiency?—Private enterprise. Building “Slack” on account of war and cost of materials.

Number of New Houses built during 1914?—By and at the cost of the District Council—Nil. By private enterprise—42.

Source of the Water Supply?—Manchester and Bolton. What is its condition?—Good. Possibilities of contamination?—? Any insufficiency, and where?—No.

Is Scavenging and removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district?—Yes.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?

—By Sanitary Authority.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—Destructor, tips, land. Has a Destructor been provided?

—Yes.

Sewage Disposal Works. Method of Treatment?—Leigh Sewerage Works. What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year?—Water carriage system. Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system?—A few outlying cottages. Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.?—Flushing periodically, as required.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams? One sample taken—Copy of Report sent to Colliery Co.

Canal Boats: Number Inspected? Nil.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses?—Good. What is the condition of the Slaughter Houses?—Good. Has a Public Abattoir been provided?—No. What is the condition of the Lodging Houses?—None.

What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools?—Good.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. What is their condition?—Fairly Good. Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.? Yes. Are they enforced? Yes. Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow?—600 c.f. No. of Cowkeepers?—No. on Register—20. No. of inspections during year?—63. No. of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)?—No. on Register?—47 (19 reside outside the District). Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows?—No. Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk?—None.

Total amount of Food seized as unfit for Human Consumption?—1391 lbs. No. of Carcases and parts of Carcases condemned for Tuberculosis?—Two carcases of Beef, one Pig, two forequarters, six livers, etc. No. of Legal Proceedings, and result?—Nil.

Department of Inspector of Nuisances. No. of Notices served?—59. Nuisances remedied? 671. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—Nil.

Closet accommodation of the District.—No. of Privy Middens?—75. Pail Closets?—8. Fresh Water Closets?—1953. Waste Water Closets?—1415. No. of Privy Middens converted during 1914?—To W.C.'s—82. To Pails, &c.—Nil. No. of Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s—Nil. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion of either privies or Pail closets, or both? If so, how much?—Provides drains and supplies water. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for *new* property?—Water Closets and Pails.

Smoke.—No. of Observations?—14. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—Nil. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—5 minutes in the hour.

Has the Authority adopted—

“The Infectious Disease (Prevention Act, 1890 ”?—Yes.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ”?—Yes.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 ”?—Yes.

“The Notification of Births Act, 1907 ”?—Yes.

Has a Health Visitor (whole, or part time) been appointed?—Yes (whole time.)

Has any, and if so, what action been taken respecting Child Welfare Work?—Health Visitor's sole occupation—School for mothers, session held weekly—Depôt for sale of dried milk.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District.—Houses—cheap and with plenty of room.

(Signed) JAMES MARSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1915.

TABLE I.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.**

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.				
		Un-corrected Number.	NETT.		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	18900	...	541	28.49	324	17.14	79	3	71	131.23	248	13.12
1910	18900	...	519	26.47	363	18.5	100	13	80	154.1	288	14.67
1911	18982	...	515	27.97	360	18.9	98	49	91	176.69	311	16.38
1912	19600	...	527	25.8	330	16.8	106	...	53	100.56	224	11.42
1913	20000	...	542	27.1	387	19.35	96	17	93	166.6	308	15.4
1914	20500		566	27.6	340	16.5	92	13	61	107.77	261	12.73

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)—2269. Total Population at all ages—18,982.

Number of inhabited houses—3,668.

Average number of persons per house—5.18.

TABLE II.
ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										Total Deaths in Hospital of Patients removed to Hospital from this District.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.								Total Deaths in Hospital of Patients removed to Hospital from this District.	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upward			
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	61	...	10	48	1	2	...	...	18	1
Erysipelas ...	15	1	1	...	2	3	5	3	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	61	...	17	34	8	2	...	...	34	...
Enteric Fever ...	9	...	...	3	3	3	...	...	6	...
Puerperal Fever ...	7	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	42	...	...	8	16	16	2	...	10	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	21	...	8	6	5	1	...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	222	7	36	99	37	32	7	4	68	1	

Isolation Hospital—Astley Sanatorium.

TABLE III.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.**Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the Sub-joined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards		
All causes {Certified {Uncertified	260 1	61 ...	26 ...	12 ...	13 ...	17 ...	38 1	48 ...	45 ...	105 ...	
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	9	...	4	3	2	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	14	8	5	1	...	..	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	27	1	...	...	3	9	12	2	...	15
Tuberculous Meningitis	5	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	13	...	...	...	..	...	1	8	4	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Meningitis	11	4	2	1	2	1	1	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	21	...	...	1	1	3	3	4	9	14
Bronchitis	27	4	4	1	1	...	...	9	8	21
Pneumonia (all forms)	27	5	5	1	1	1	4	6	4	9	
Other diseases of respiratory organs	4	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	14	10	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	6	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	4
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	18	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	10	...	1	...	...	1	1	6	1	3
Suicide	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	31	5	...	...	...	1	6	9	10	17
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	4
TOTALS	261	61	26	12	13	17	39	48	45	105	

TABLE IV.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.**Infant Mortality during the Year 1914.***Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 m'ths & under 6 months	6 m'ths & under 9 months	9 m'ths & under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All causes	{ Certified	...	...	...	11	2	2	4	19	13	9	11	8	61
	{ Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough					...	...	...	...	...	4	1	2	1	8
{ Tuberculous Meningitis					...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases					...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Meningitis (Not Tuberculous)					...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	4
Convulsions					...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis					...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)					...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	5
{ Diarrhœa					...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	7
{ Enteritis					...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3
Atelectasis					1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Congenital Malformations					5	1	...	1	7	...	...	1	...	8
{ Premature Birth					5	1	1	1	8	...	...	...	...	8
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus					...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Other Causes					...	...	...	2	2	1	...	2	1	6
TOTALS					11	2	2	4	19	13	9	11	8	61

Net Births in the year—574.

Net Deaths in the year—61.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the year ending December 31st, 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report, giving details of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year 1914.

As will be seen, the activity of the Council has been maintained in improving the sanitary condition of the District, by the careful administration of the various Public Health Acts, thereby removing or preventing conditions which were or were likely to become a danger to the health of the inhabitants of the District. It will be seen that a large amount of work is being done, and that the list of duties is constantly being added to, and the work increased in proportion.

The nuisances discovered were of a varied nature, many being of such a character as to require merely verbal intimation to the persons responsible, to bring about the desired result. In those cases where the nuisances arose from structural defects, the owners were communicated with, and if required, the usual statutory notices served upon them. Particular attention being paid to the inspection of those back yards which are common to several houses, as in this class of back yard less attention is paid to the cleansing than in those having private yards.

During the year I purchased 42 samples of milk, and submitted them for analysis to the Public Analyst, 41 of them being certified as genuine, three of the samples were stated to be rich in cream, and one sample was stated as being slightly deficient in cream (Fat 2.81 %), a second sample purchased from the same vendor at the same time being certified as genuine. I was instructed to warn the vendor.

Mr. Superintendent Ross, of the County Police, Leigh, has kindly furnished me with the number and the nature of the samples purchased by the Police in the District during the year 1914, viz:—Milk 32, all of which were certified as genuine.

There are 67 work-shops on the register, which includes 24 bake-houses, 3 restaurants, and one out-worker.

There are 20 shops for the preparation and sale of Chipped Potatoes and fried fish, they are mostly clean and well fitted up for the purpose, and are conducted as far as is reasonably possible, in a proper manner, being regularly visited and inspected.

There are 12 premises where the manufacture of Ice cream is carried on, and which are visited and inspected.

There are eleven slaughter-houses on the register, two of them being registered, and the others are licensed annually; they are generally kept in good order, notices being sent to the occupiers reminding them of the periodical lime-washing, which I am pleased to say, is always promptly done.

There are twenty registered cow-keepers and eight purveyors of milk residing in the District, and in addition there are nineteen cow-keepers and dairymen who reside outside the District.

All the cowsheds are visited and inspected, and during the year I have paid 63 visits to cowsheds; they are generally kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

I am proceeding, as other duties allow, with the Inspection of houses under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, and during the year I have inspected 294 houses, and reported upon these to your Committee.

In connection with these, 59 notices have been served (I may add that one notice generally covers many defects). In 256 houses the defects have been remedied, and in the remainder the work is either in hand or in abeyance for the present; but these will be brought to your notice if attention is not paid to them. Closing Orders in respect of seven houses were made.

In the majority of cases the defects found are minor ones, viz:—Defective roofs, spoutings, rain-water pipes, window sash cords, fixed windows, &c., defective slop-stone pipes, defective and soft plaster walls at the back of the slop-stones, &c., details of which are given in the following table:—

Number and nature of the nuisances abated during the year:—

Defective roofs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
„ and damp walls...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
„ bedroom floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ kitchen floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
„ ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Defective walls at the back of the slopstones	...	77
„ slop-stones ... ..	...	8
„ slop-stone pipes ... ..	...	28
„ spoutings and rain-water pipes	... ..	22
„ R.W. pipes disconnected and made to dis- charge over gullies	... ..	13
„ and untrapped gullies	... ..	7
„ Water closet Pedestals...	... ..	5
„ flushing apparatus to W.C.	... ..	14
„ tipper to waste water closets	... ..	22
„ pavements round gullies	... ..	74
„ pavements in back yards	... ..	44
„ ashpails ... ..	...	11
„ chimney pot ... ..	...	1
„ brick drain relaid	... ..	1
„ water services ... ..	...	9
„ gas service ... ..	...	1
„ and dangerous fireplace	... ..	1
„ window sash cords repaired	... ..	74
„ house doors repaired, &c.	... ..	5
Windows (York Lights) made so that they can be opened	... ..	98
Insufficient lighting obstructive building removed	...	1
Houses Cleansed, lime-washed, &c....	... ..	49
Overcrowding ... ..	...	6
Accumulations, &c., in back yards	... ..	6
Fowls in back yards ... ..	...	3
Accumulations of Manure, &c.	... ..	4
		<hr/> 671 <hr/>

Under section 36, P.H. Act, 1875, twelve notices were served requiring the provision of water-closets in lieu of insanitary privy-middens, and as a result, 82 water-closets were provided, the floors of 38 ashpits were raised and cemented, and 20 galvanized iron Pails were provided in lieu of ashpits which were abolished.

Observations of Black Smoke, 14 of these were made and reported upon to your committee during the year.

During the year 42 new houses were built and occupied, and in this connection I may add that a considerable number of houses are still wanted. The total number of houses now being 4080.

All cases of Infectious Disease are visited as soon as possible after notification, and instructions given to prevent the spread of Infection. Disinfectants, &c., are supplied together with instructions for the proper use of them; there is of course the possibility that the use of Disinfectant in many cases takes the proper methods of cleansing, &c., but all possible means are taken to prevent their misuse.

In those cases where the patients are removed to the Sanatorium, disinfection is carried out as soon as possible after the removal of the patient, in the cases where the patient is nursed at home, instructions respecting the isolation of the patient are given, and a stamped addressed post card is left to be signed by the Medical Practitioner in attendance that the patient is free from Infection, on the receipt of which, the disinfection is carried out as soon as possible.

In the cases notified under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1912, the cases are visited and verbal together with a copy of printed instructions are given. Sputum flasks, paper handkerchiefs, and disinfectants are supplied.

In many cases the patients or their friends have no previous intimation of the nature of the Disease from which they are suffering, and the visit of your inspector comes as a surprise and a shock to them.

Number of cases and number of rooms disinfected after cases of Infectious Diseases.

	Cases.	Rooms.	Beds.	Pillows, Clothing, &c.,	Books.	Rooms Lime-washed.	Stripped and Re-papered
Scarlet Fever ...	61	61	36	234	2	10	6
Typhoid Fever ...	9	15	7	42	0	1	0
Diphtheria ...	61	68	10	14	1	0	0
Erysipelas ...	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Septœsemia	7	7	6*	0	0	0	1
	<hr/> 159 <hr/>	<hr/> 151 <hr/>	<hr/> 59 <hr/>	<hr/> 290 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 11 <hr/>	<hr/> 7 <hr/>

*1 bed destroyed.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—After removal of patients to Sanatoria, and deaths, 75 rooms were disinfected, 9 beds and 58 pillows and articles of clothing were disinfected, and 9 beds, and 22 pillows, &c., were destroyed at the owners request. 2 rooms were lime-washed, and 8 were stripped and re-papered.

There are in use at the present time 1,953 Fresh Water-closets, 1,415 Waste water closets. Privy-middens, 75. Of this number 29 are at present outside the area drained by the Council's sewers.

Number of Ashpails cleared, 56,212.

Number of Dry Ashpits cleared, 6,524.

3210 loads, weighing 4,925 tons, were destroyed at the Destructor, 113 loads were tipped, when the Destructor was unavoidably closed down for repairs, &c. A reduction of 263 loads from last year.

No. of privy-middens cleared, 249. 70 loads of which were tipped on farms, a reductions on the year of 151 loads.

There were destroyed at the Destructor, 24 beds, 152 Old Mattresses, 88 Cats, 136 dogs (most of these being removed from the Police Station. Live dogs are not allowed to be left at the Destructor.

There were also destroyed two whole carcasses of beef together with the organs, two fore-quarters and parts of beef. Weighing 1,391 lbs. 1 Pig 80 lbs. a number of livers, &c.

The attention of horse keepers was called by letter, to the necessity of the frequent removal of manure, &c., from stables, and four notices in this respect were served upon horse keepers.

I have to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance I have received from the members of the Council, the Officials, and the Office Staff, to whom I tender my thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

KAY JEPSON, A.R. San. Inst.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods.

